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Souvenir of Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace. Hodgenville, Ky.

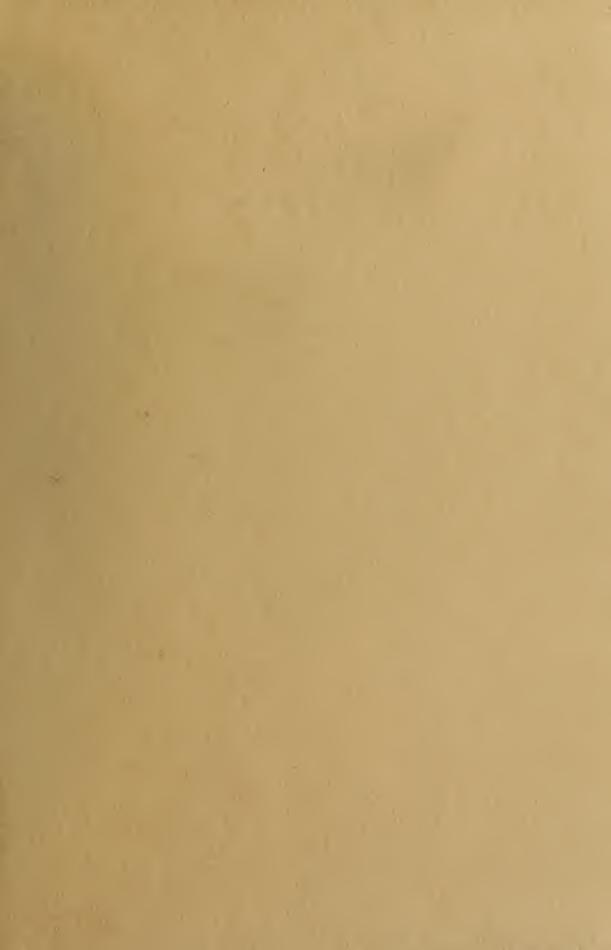
LINCOLN ROOM

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE

> HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY.



Souvenir

of

Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace

HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY.

BY LOUIS A. WARREN

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THE BIRTHPLACE FARM



HE farm on which Abraham Lincoln was born was originally a part of a 60,000 acre patent. As early as 1786, John Dewhurst was in possession of one half of this tract which he sold to William Greenough the

same year. By 1791 the 30,000 acres was in possession of William Weymouth and later John Hood and Joseph James each purchased tracts of 15,000 acres. James disposed of his interests to Richard Mather in 1798. Commissioners were appointed in the year 1801 to divide equally between Hood's heirs and Richard Mather the 30,000 acres secured from Weymouth. Mather was granted the northern half of the tract.

Richard Mather sold to David Vance on May 1, 1805, 300 acres of this 15,000 acre tract, which Vance turned over to Isaac Bush on November 2nd of the same year. On December 12, 1808, Bush sold this property to Thomas Lincoln, who settled upon it two months before Abraham Lincoln was born. Until the discovery of the above transfers by the writer it was thought that Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham, was a squatter on this farm, but such is not the case. He paid Bush \$200 cash for the place and held possession until 1813, when it was discovered there was a payment due Mather by Vance that had never been settled. The property was thrown into litigation and ordered to be sold although Thomas Lincoln was awarded the \$200 cash which he had paid for the land.

John Welsh became the purchaser of the Lincoln Farm in 1816 after which it eventually became divided into several smaller farms. A division of the farm was made by Mr. Welsh and Elijah Duckworth, and in July, 1822, Duckworth sold his property to George Burkhart. On January 28. 1824, Burkhart sold out to Henry Thomas. Thomas kept the land for six years and then sold to John Gash, the endorsement bearing the date of October 14, 1830. Five years later Henry Brothers acquired the property but was unable to meet the pay ments and Gash finally sold it to Charles F. Huss on March 25, 1840. In 1845 the Thomas family again obtained posession of a small portion of the above tract containing the spring and cabin. On September 27, 1852, they conveyed to Henry H. Horne the tract of land including "the spring where the said Horne now lives."

Royal P. Hankla became the next owner of the Lincoln cabin and surrounding acres making the purchase on December 14, 1853. He retained possession until after the Civil War and then sold to Richard Creal on August 26, 1867. After the Civil War, Lincoln having become famous, the

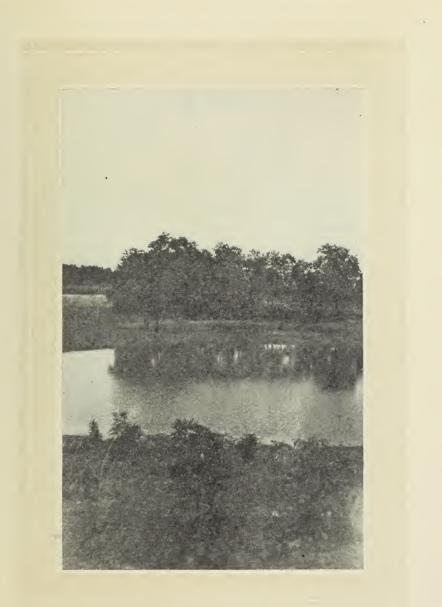


Creal farm became known as the Lincoln Birthplace Farm. It contained less than one-third of the original farm on which Thomas Lincoln settled and where he was living when Abraham Lincoln was born.

Richard Creal and his heirs owned the land for a longer period than any other title holder, having possession more than twenty-seven years. On November 23, 1894, it became the property of Alfred W. Dennette, who was the first individual to place any value on it for its association with Abraham Lincoln. He lived in New York and was an admirer of Abraham Lincoln. He also purchased the Lincoln cabin which had been removed to another farm, and restored it to its original site.

With the passing of Dennette into bankruptcy, the farm was sold at the court house door and Robert J. Collier bought the farm on August 25, 1905. On November 9, 1907, he presented it to the Lincoln Farm Association. After the Memorial Building had been erected, the cabin enshrined, and numerous improvements made about the place, the Lincoln Farm Association presented the property to the United States of America. The deed of conveyance is dated April 16, 1916.

Previous to the possession of this farm by Richard Creal, nothing was known about the ownership. It was during a systematic research of records in Hardin and LaRue County by the writer, that these land transfers became known. Those interested in a further discussion of the title to the Lincoln Farm as held by Thomas Lincoln, may find such information in my "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood," published by The Century Company, New York.



THE JACKSON HIGHWAY



HE Lincoln Birthplace Farm is situated on the Jackson Highway, a national road project running north and south through Kentucky, having as its terminals the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. The seg-

ment of this road passing through LaRue County has been known by several names. As early as 1800 it was called the Old Cumberland Road, later it was designated the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike, it was also called the Bardstown and Green River Turnpike. It runs through the Lincoln Farm nearly parallel with the eastern and western boundaries and cuts the original property of Thomas Lincoln in about two equal areas.

If there is a stretch of twenty-five miles on any highway in the middle west that has so many places of historical interest as this highway from Bardstown to Hodgenville, we do not know where it can be. Among the sites at Bardstown may be seen: "Old Kentucky Home," where Stephen Foster wrote the greatest of American folk songs; the grave of John Fitch the inventor of the first steamboat, and but recently honored; also St. Joseph's Cathedral, the oldest west of the Alleghany Mountains, famous for its rare collections of old paintings. At New Haven is the Abbey of Gethsemani, one of the two monasteries of the Trappist Order in the United States. At Athertonville is the site of the school house which Lincoln attended as a boy, and near Hodgenville other locations of interest to Lincoln students.

Note: Those desiring a description of these many places of historical import on the Jackson Highway may secure my "Louisville Lincoln Loop", published by the Standard Printing Co. of Louisville,



The Jackson Highway

THE RAIL FENCE



T is the intention of the United State Government to conserve at the farm, all the original features that will contribute to the early environment of the sacred spot. One of the first evidences of this purpose ob-

served by the visitor approaching the reservation, is the rail fence which borders that portion of the Jackson Highway that passes through the park. With the possible exception of "Honest Abe", no appelation has been used in referring to Lincoln more frequently than "The Railsplitter". While Lincoln was too young when he left the place of his birth to have any part in the manual labor about the home, he undoubtedly saw rails split by his father on this very farm.

We learn from John Hanks that when the Lincoln family arrived on the Sangamon River, in Macon County, Illinois, the lanky young Kentuckian was already initiated into his early occupation. Hanks says, "Abe and myself split rails enough to fence the place in." He also affirmed that when Lincoln was twenty-two years old, "He made 3,000 rails for Maj. Warnick, walking three miles daily to his work."

It was the rails split by Lincoln and Hanks near Decatur that caused Lincoln to be known as "The Railsplitter." At the Republican Convention in Decatur, John Hanks was introduced to the assembly bearing two rails with this inscription on them:

> Abraham Lincoln The Rail Candidate For President in 1860.



The Rail Fence

THE CORNER OAK



NE of the most interesting features at the park is the Old Corner Oak. This giant tree overshadows everything in the immediate vicinity. The trunk has a circumference of over fifteen feet at a point six feet from the ground. The foliage has a

spread of over one hundred feet. It is in a perfect state of preservation and makes a substantial growth each year. It seems good for at least another century.

As early as 1822 this oak was designated as a tree large enough to be marked and made a corner, which distinguished it from its neighbor trees. By the year 1827 a survey was made "To begin at a noted white oak D. V. Vance's corner." At one time as many as six farms centered at this oak and at present three land surveys make the tree their corner.

If one could interpret the language of the trees, like the exiled Duke in the Garden of Arden, the tongue of this tree might tell an interesting story. As far as we know, this is the only thing now living that looked down upon the cradle of Abraham Lincoln. Its location is not more than three hundred feet from the original site of the Lincoln cabin. Although Abraham moved with his parents from this home when he was but two years of age, there is no doubt but what the shade of the old corner oak was a part of his first playground. This tree has been mentioned as worthy of a place in the list of famous trees compiled by the Forestry Department.



The Corner Oak

THE ROCK SPRING

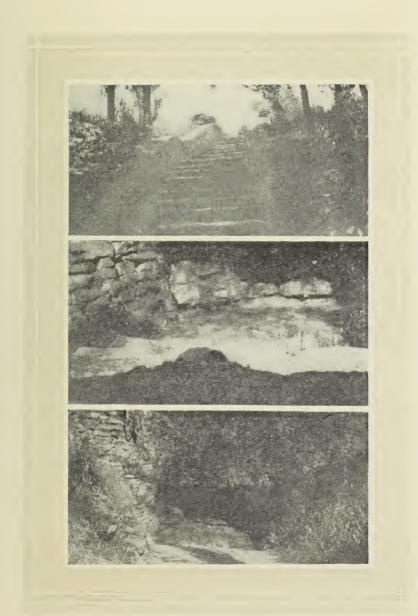


ATURE'S best gift to the Lincoln Farm is the spring of cool water, which gave the property the name of Sinking Spring Farm in the early days. It is located at the foot of the elevation on which the memorial building stands.

building stands. The approach is down a flight of stone steps, leading to the rock cave which forms a natural spring house for the never failing stream. The cave is high enough for one to stand upright, and wide enough to accomodate a number of people. Its walls are covered with vines and the overhanging trees make it one of the most beautiful spots on the entire reservation. The water gushes forth from a crevice in the rock and falls gracefully into a cavity that has been made by the centuries of continual dropping.

The spring is undoubtedly very much the same as it was in the days when the Lincoln family secured from it their water supply. Its presence was probably responsible for the location of the cabin, which stood close by. In conversation with an old citizen of LaRue County, Dr. Jesse Rodman, Lincoln said that he remembered the cave spring.

The visitor to the spring may see carved in the wall the letters "S. C." placed there in 1860 by Samuel Castene. Mr. Castene borrowed the hammer and chisel used in carving the initials from R. W. Creal, a recent judge of LaRue County. Creal was then a small boy on his father's farm and lived in the old cabin at the entrance to the park. Soldiers returning after the Civil War remarked that someone had carved in the wall of the old spring, the initials standing for Southern Confederacy.



THE CORNER STONE



block of Connecticut granite weighing three thousand pounds, serves as the corner stone of the Memorial Building. The date engraved upon it, February 12, 1909, is the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth,

and it was on this day the corner stone services were held. Theodore Roosevelt, then President of the United States, officiated at the exercises. When the stone was ready for placement, he applied the first mortar with a silver trowel.

Five addresses were delivered on this occasion, each speaker placing within the metal box of the corner stone the manuscript used. The contents of the box and those depositing the same are shown by the following program:

Address on behalf of the Government — Theodore Roosevelt.

Address on behalf of Lincoln Farm Association—Gov. Joseph W. Folk.

Address on behalf of the State of Kentucky—Gov. A. Wilson.

Address on behalf of the Federal Army —Gen. James Grant Wilson.

Address on behalf of Confederate Army—Gen. Luke E. Wright.

Copy of Emancipation Proclamation— I. T. Montgomery, Ex Slave.

Coins of the Day_Clarence H. Mackay.

History of Lincoln Farm Association- Richard Lloyd Jones.

Copy of LaRue County Herald, February 11, 1909—Robert J. Collier.

Silk American Flag—Theodore Roosevelt.





HE architecture of the Memorial Building is an original design by John Russell Pope. The construction was superintended by Norcross Brothers of Worcester, Massachusetts, and the material used was Stony Creek Connecticut granite.

Within the building stands the humble log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born. With the exception of the inscriptions on the walls, and a card index cabinet to one side, there is nothing further to detract the attention of the visitor from the chief object of interest. The cabinet contains the names of those who made possible the purchase of the farm and cabin, the erection of the Memorial Building and the improvements on the old home place.

During the interval between the launching of the project and the date of acceptance by the United States Government, three Presidents have visited the memorial and taken part in exercises associated with it. The ceremonies at the laying of the corner stone, February 12, 1909, were presided over by President Theodore Roosevelt. The dedicatory services on November 9, 1911, were attended by President William Howard Taft, and the formal acceptance of the Lincoln Farm as a National Park was by President Woodrow Wilson, on September 4, 1916.

> Companion for the centuries art thou, And yet thy crumbling granite, turned to dust, Shall not outlive that wasting pile, within Whose logs a grateful people keep in trust.



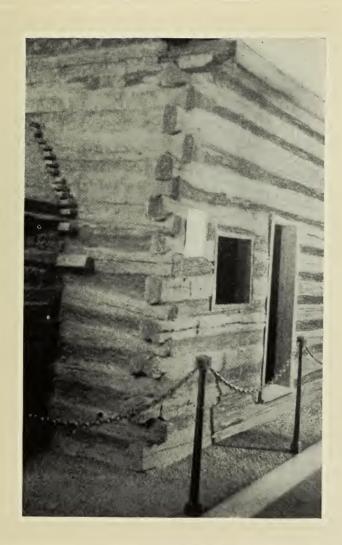
THE LOG CABIN



HERE is nothing at the park that rivals in interest the log cabin in which Lincoln was born. Sheltered now from the elements and also from the hand of the vandal, it is conserved so that future generations may

be inspired by its presence. Its history is as romantic as the life of the child that left the cabin for the White House. In the early sixties shortly after Lincoln was chosen President, George Rodman, an admirer of Lincoln, bought the old cabin from Richard Creal and moved it from its original site to his property about one and onehalf miles from the Lincoln farm. It was first used as a shelter for ngroes and later as a tenant house. Two terms of school were taught in the cabin about 1872 and 1873. In 1875 John Davenport married the school teacher and they went to keeping house in the cabin. Here they lived until 1894 when the cabin was purchased by A. W. Dennett and moved back to its original site on the Lincoln Farm.

The cabin rested on the old foundation but a short time and then was taken down. The 143 logs were shipped to the Nashville Centennial in 1897, for exhibition purposes. It was moved to Central Park, New York, and exhibited at the Buffalo Exposition in 1901, after which it was purchased by David Creer and stored in the old Poffenhausen Mansion on Long Island. In 1906 the Lincoln Farm Association purchased the cabin and shipped it to Louisville, where it was one of the features of the Louisville home coming celebration. It was brought to Hodgenville in 1909 at the laying of the Memorial Building corner stone and finally lodged there at the dedication in 1911.



LINCOLN NATIONAL PARK



HE names of Jones and Collier will always be associated with the Lincoln National Park. Rev. Jenkins Lloyd Jones might be called the originator of the plan to conserve the birthplace of Lincoln, and Robert

J. Collier was of great assistance in carrying out the proposed program.

The Lincoln Farm Association was the organization which made the park possible and this brief word suggests the purpose of the movement, "This is a patriotic association of the citizens of the United States, formed to develop the Lincoln Birthplace Farm, at Hodgenville, Kentucky, into a permanent Lincoln National Park—a park of patriotism." The association raised \$385,000 by public subscription. All but \$48,000 was spent for improvements, which sum was left as an endowment to care for the park.

The following excerpt is from the deed showing the transfer to the United States of America:

"Upon considerations that lands herein described together with the buildings and appurtenances thereunto belonging shall be forever dedicated to the purpose of a National Park or Reservation, and the party of the second part, the United States of America, agrees to protect and preserve the said lands and buildings and appurtenances, and especially the Log Cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born, and the Memorial Hall enclosing same from spoliation, destruction and further disintegration, to the end that there shall never be any charge made or asked from the public for admission to said park or reservation."



Memorial Driveway

INSCRIPTIONS

DEDICATION

HERE

OVER THE LOG CABIN WHERE ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS BORN DESTINED TO PRESERVE THE UNION AND FREE THE SLAVE

A GRATEFUL PEOPLE HAVE DEDICATED THIS MEMORIAL TO UNITY PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD AMONG THE STATES

WORDS OF LINCOLN

LET US HAVE FAITH THAT RIGHT MAKES MIGHT AND IN THAT FAITH LET US TO THE END DARE TO DO OUR DUTY

Cooper Institute, N. Y., Feb. 27, 1860.

STAND WITH ANYBODY THAT STANDS RIGHT STAND WITH HIM WHILE HE IS RIGHT, AND PART WITH HIM WHEN HE GOES WRONG

Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854.

WITH MALICE TOWARDS NONE WITH CHARITY FOR ALL

Note—The above inscriptions are engraved on the front walls of the Memorial Building.—Ed.



North View of Memorial

POETRY AND HISTORY

Note: These pages of poetry and history which follow are facsimiles of engravings on the interior walls of the Memorial Building.—Ed

TRIBUTES

HE WAS THE NORTH, THE SOUTH, THE EAST, THE WEST. THE THRALL, THE MASTER, ALL OF US IN ONE; THERE WAS NO SECTION THAT HE HELD THE BEST; HIS LOVE SHOWN AS IMPARTIAL AS THE SUN; AND SO REVENGE APPEALED TO HIM IN VAIN, HE SMILED AT IT AS AT A THING FORLORN, AND GENTLY PUT IT FROM HIM, ROSE AND STOOD A MOMENTS SPACE IN PAIN, REMEMBERING THE PRAIRIES AND THE CORN AND THE GLAD VOICES OF THE FIELD AND WOOD. MAURICE THOMPSON

THE COLOR OF THE GROUND WAS IN HIM THE RED EARTH; THE SMELL AND SMACK OF ELEMENTAL THINGS: THE RECTITUDE AND PATIENCE OF THE CLIFF; THE GOOD WILL OF THE RAIN THAT LOVES ALL LEAVES; THE FRIENDLY WELCOME OF THE WAYSIDE WELL; THE COURAGE OF THE BIRD THAT DARES THE SEA; THE GLADNESS OF THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE CORN; THE MERCY OF THE SNOW THAT HIDES ALL SCARS; THE SECRECY OF STREAMS THAT MAKE THEIR WAY BENEATH THE MOUNTAIN TO THE RIFTED ROCK; THE UNDERLYING JUSTICE OF THE LIGHT THAT GIVES AS FREELY TO THE SHRINKING FLOWER AS TO THE GREAT OAK FLARING TO THE WIND TO THE GRAVE'S LOW HILL AS TO THE MATTERHORN THAT SHOULDERS OUT THE SKY.

EDWIN MARKHAM.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

I WAS BORN FEB. 12, 1809, IN HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY. MY PARENTS WERE BORN IN VIRGINIA. MY MOTHER WHO DIED IN MY TENTH YEAR, WAS OF A FAMILY OF THE NAME OF HANKS. MY FATHER AT THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER WAS BUT SIX YEARS OF AGE, AND HE GREW UP. LITERALLY WITHOUT EDUCATION. HE REMOVED FROM KENTUCKY TO WHAT IS NOW SPENCER COUNTY, INDIANA, IN MY EIGHTH YEAR. WE REACHED OUR NEW HOME ABOUT THE TIME THE STATE CAME INTO THE UNION. IT WAS A WILD REGION, WITH MANY BEARS AND OTHER WILD ANIMALS, STILL IN THE WOODS. THERE I GREW UP. THERE WERE SOME SCHOOLS, SO CALLED. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO EXCITE AMBITION FOR EDUCATION. OF COURSE WHEN I CAME OF AGE I DID NOT KNOW MUCH. STILL, SOMEHOW, I COULD READ, WRITE, AND CIPHER TO THE RULE OF THREE BUT THAT WAS ALL. THE LITTLE ADVANCE I NOW HAVE UPON THIS STORE OF EDUCATION, I HAVE PICKED UP FROM TIME TO TIME, UNDER THE PRESSURE OF NECESSITY.

A. LINCOLN.

Note: The above historical data consists of several excerpts from an autobiography prepared by Abraham Lincoln for Jesse W. Fell in 1850.—Ed. January 30, 1770

January 17, 1851

FIFTH IN DESCENT FROM SAMUEL LINCOLN, WEAVER. WHO LANDED AT HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, MAY 26, 1637. ORPHANED AT SIX YEARS OF AGE BY AN INDIAN BULLET HE GREW UP HOMELESS IN THE WILD WOODS OF KENTUCKY. AT TWENTY-FIVE HE WAS THE POSSESSOR OF THIS CABIN HOME AND ITS NEIGHBORING ACRES. IN 1818 HE MOVED TO INDIANA. THEN A TERRITORY, FIVE YEARS LATER HE FOLLOWED THE TIDE OF IMMIGRATION TO ILLINOIS, WHERE HE LIVED A PEACEFUL, INDUSTRIOUS, RESPECTED CITIZEN, A GENERAL, HONEST AND CONTENTED PIONEER. WITH COURAGE AND ENERGY HE BUILT WITH HIS OWN HAND FIVE HOMES, EACH BETTER THAN THE PRECEEDING ONE, HE WON AND HELD THE LOVE AND CONFIDENCE OF TWO NOBLE WOMEN AND HE WAS THE FATHER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. "MY FATHER INSISTED THAT NONE OF HIS CHILDREN SHOULD SUFFER FOR THE WANT OF EDUCATION AS HE ABRAHAM LINCOLN. HAD."

"HE WAS A GOOD CARPENTER FOR THE TIMES. HE HAD THE BEST SET OF TOOLS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. THE LINCOLNS HAD A COW AND A CALF, MILK AND BUTTER, A GOOD FEATHER-BED, FOR I HAVE SLEPT ON IT, THEY HAD A HOME-WOVEN 'KIVERLID,' BIG AND LITTLE POTS, A LOOM AND WHEEL. TOM LINCOLN WAS A MAN AND TOOK CARE OF HIS WIFE. REVEREND JESSE HEAD, THE MINISTER WHO MARRIED TOM LINCOLN AND NANCY HANKS, TALKED BOLDLY AGAINST SLAVERY AND TOM AND NANCY LINCOLN AND SARAH BUSH WERE JUST STEEPED FULL OF JESSE HEAD'S NOTIONS ABOUT THE WRONG OF SLAVERY AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN AS EXPLAINED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THOMAS PAINE." Prof. T. C. GRAHAM, Louisville, Ky.

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN

February 4, 1784

October 5, 1818

BORN IN VIRGINIA; WHEN THREE YEARS OLD HER PARENTS JOSEPH AND NANCY SHIPLEY HANKS, CROSSED THE MOUNTAINS INTO KENTUCKY. ORPHANED AT NINE SHE WAS ADOPTED AND REARED BY RICHARD AND LUCY SHIPLEY BERRY, AT WHOSE HOME IN BEECHLAND, WASH-INGTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, SHE WAS MARRIED TO THOMAS LINCOLN, JUNE 17, 1806. OF THIS UNION WERE BORN SARAH, ABRAHAM AND THOMAS. THE FIRST MARRIED AARON GRIGSBY AND DIED IN INDIANA IN 1828. THE LAST DIED IN INFANCY. THE SECOND LIVED TO WRITE THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION. THE DAYS OF THE DISTAFF. THE SKILLETT, THE DUTCH OVEN, THE OPEN FIREPLACE WITH ITS IRON CRANE ARE NO LONGER, BUT HOMEMAKING IS STILL THE FINEST OF THE FINE ARTS. NANCY HANKS WAS TOUCHED WITH THE DIVINE APTITUDES OF THE FIRESIDE. LOVED AND HONORED FOR HER WIT. GENIALITY AND INTELLIGENCE. SHE JUSTIFIED AN ANCESTRY REACHING BEYOND THE SEAS, REPRESENTED BY THE NOTABLE NAMES OF HANKS, SHIPLEY, BOONE, EVANS AND MORRIS, TO HER WAS ENTRUSTED THE TASK OF TRAINING A GIANT IN WHOSE CHILDHOOD'S MEMORIES SHE WAS HALLOWED. OF HER HE SAID, "MY EARLIEST RECOLLECTIONS OF MY MOTHER IS SITTING AT HER FEET WITH MY SISTER DRINK-ING IN THE TALES AND LEGENDS THAT WERE READ AND RELATED TO US." TO HIM ON HER DEATH BED SHE SAID: 'I AM GOING AWAY FROM YOU ABRAHAM, AND I SHALL NOT RETURN, I KNOW YOU WILL BE A GOOD BOY, THAT YOU WILL BE KIND TO SARAH AND YOUR FATHER. I WANT YOU TO LIVE AS I HAVE TAUGHT YOU TO AND TO LOVE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.' "ALL THAT I AM OR HOPE TO BE I OWE TO MY ANGEL MOTHER."

ADMINISTRATION

NOTE: The two following inscriptions are copied from bronze tablets on the rear wall of the Memorial Building.

THIS MEMORIAL

ERECTED BY POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION

THROUGH THE LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION

> JOSEPH W. FOLK PRESIDENT

ROBERT J. COLLIER VICE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CLARENCE H. MACKAY TREASURER

RICHARD LLOYD JONES SECRETARY

JOHN RUSSELL POPE ARCHITECT

CORNERSTONE LAID BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT FEBRUARY 12, 1909

> DEDICA'TED BY PRESIDENT TAFT NOVEMBER 9, 1911





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OF THE

LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION

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